



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:059

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 28, 2006

Contact: Nghia Nguyen-Demovic
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Continues his Month-Long Voter Education Efforts at California State University, Chico

CHICO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today joined Butte County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Candace Grubbs and college students at a voter registration drive at CSU Chico and viewed a demonstration of Butte County's new voting system for elections this year. Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa and a representative from Assemblymember Rick Keene's office also attended the event.

"Increasing voter participation among young adults is one of my top priorities as Secretary of State," said Secretary McPherson. "Raising awareness of voter registration deadlines and voter services available will help increase participation among this important sector of our state."

"I applaud Butte County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Candace Grubbs for her commitment to the voters of Butte County by investing her time and efforts to inform them about voting machines," added Secretary McPherson.

"We have scheduled events throughout Butte County for the month of May to educate voters about the new voting machines that will be used at all polling locations in June," said Candace Grubbs, County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters. "I appreciate Secretary McPherson's visit today to discuss the integrity of voting systems and encourage college students to register to vote."

Since declaring April as "Voter Education and Participation Month," Secretary McPherson has been encouraging eligible Californians to register to vote and educates them about the new laws. Citizens can register to vote until the 15-day close of registration, which is May 22nd. Attached is "What's New for the 2006 Federal Elections," information about new laws that will have an impact on this year's elections. For more information, please visit the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov.

-30-



WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2006 ELECTIONS
New federal laws will have an impact on this year's elections.
Learn how they will impact you and Your Vote.

New Identification Requirements:

- To register or re-register to vote after January 1, 2006, you **must** provide a California driver's license or state ID number, if you have one, in the fields provided on the voter registration form. If you don't have either of these, you must provide the last four numbers of your social security number in the field provided.
- The elections official must verify your ID number before putting you on the list of registered voters, so be sure to register well in advance of the election.
- Some people who registered by mail for the first time in California and did not fill in their ID number may have to show ID when they vote at a polling place, or include a photocopy of their ID with their absentee ballot. Contact your local elections officials if you have questions. Find your elections official by calling 1-800-345-VOTE or by visiting: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm

Voting Equipment Must Be Accessible to Voters with Disabilities:

- New federal law requires that beginning in 2006, each polling place must have at least one voting machine available to voters with disabilities.
- Voters with disabilities should be able to vote privately and independently.

Your County May Have New Voting Equipment:

- Many counties have purchased new voting systems to meet federal and state laws. If you are not familiar with how to cast a ballot on this system, ask the precinct worker to show you how the system works.
- All voting systems in California must pass strict tests and meet all federal and state standards before being approved for use.

You Have the Right to Cast a Ballot:

- If you are not on the list at your polling place, you have the right to cast a "provisional" ballot. The poll worker will give you information about how to find out if your vote was counted, and if it was not, why not.
- A "provisional" ballot is just like a regular ballot, except it goes into an envelope or pending status until the election official can determine your eligibility. The ballot will be counted if the election official can determine your eligibility.
- If you are in the wrong polling place, the poll worker may try to help you by giving you directions to the right polling place, where your name should be on the list and you could vote a regular ballot. If you choose not to go there, you can vote a provisional ballot.